DECLARATION
OF THE
PARLIAMENT
OF
SCOTLAND.
To all His Majesties [illegible]

Concerning their Resolutions for
RELIGION [illegible] KINGDOMS
In pursuance of the Ends of the
COVENANT.

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Most Excellent Majesty. 1648.

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A DECLARATION OF THE Parliament of SCOTLAND

To all his Majesties good Subjects of this Kingdom, Concerning their Resolutions for Religion, King, and Kingdom, In pursuance of the Ends of the COVENANT.

WE the Estates of Parliament now convened, in the first Session of this the second Triennial Parliament, Finding the strong endeavours and attempts of disaffected persons and Enemies of Truth, to blast and obstruct our Labours in the performance of our Duties, in order to all our Relations, by traducing and calumniating our proceedings, Are therefore obliged to undeceive the abused People, to vindicate our selves from all unjust Aspertions, and to clear and evidence to this Kingdom our constancie and firm-

neſſe to the Cauſe of God, which we finde now in as great (if not greater) Danger then it ever was in ſince the beginning of all their late Troubles.

Upon the growing diviſions and debates betwixt his Majeſtie and his Two Houſes of the Parliament of *England*, This Kingdom did for the ſpace of neer two years, by reiterated Petitions and Meſſages offer their Services and endeavours, for compoſing and removing theſe Diſcentions and Differences. But their deſires therein, through the Councells and and Practiſes of their common Enemies were ſtil made ineffectuall and diſappointed, untill at length many thouſands of either ſide were fallen by the fury and rage of a cruel and unnaturall Sword, and the Flouriſhing Kingdom of *England* turned into a field of blood. And while they were thus with their own hands, tearing out their own Bowels, and maſſacring themſelves: The Houſes of Parliament then in a very low Condition invited this Kingdom to their Aſſiſtance, who finding their Petitions and addreſſes to his Majeſtie, for a more Naturall and amicable deciſion of differences, then by the Sword, rejected; and juſtlie apprehending to have the dregs of that bitter Cup, which overflowed in *England* poured out upon their own heads, if thoſe Councels and advices, which gave firſt Life and motion to theſe Diſſentions, ſhould ſtill be prevalent, Did engage in a Solemn League and Covenant for Reformation and Defence of Religion, the Honour and Happineſſe of the King, and peace and ſafety of the three Kingdoms; In purſuance thereof, this Kingdom joyned in Armes with their Brethren in *England*, and for diverſe yeers through many hazards

often

and

and wants, did prosecute these ends, untill by the Blessing of God upon their joynt endeavours, their common Enemies were subdued and most of them brought to such condigne punishment as the respective Parliaments thought fit. Thereafter, our Armie returned home upon assurance from the two Houses, that the Treaties and Covenant should be inviolably kept. But by the contrary, We finde that their is not ane Article of the Solemn League and Covenant, which has not been Sinfully and Dangerously violated before God, Angels and Men, by the prevalent partie of Sectaries, and their adherents, Nay the Covenant it self like to be destroyed, or at least forgot and laid aside. For where we expected that according to the first Article of the Treatie betwixt the Kingdoms, in *Anno*, 1643. It should have been tane by both Kingdoms, and that the not Takers thereof are by the joynt Declaration of both declared publick Enemies to Religion & Countrie, and are to be punished as professed Adversaries and Malignants. We now finde by the prevalent Partie of Sectaries and their adherents; It is not onely laid aside in the new Propositions lately sent to his Majestie to the *Ile* of *Wight*, and no execution of publick orders for taking it through the Country, but also many persons of eminent & publick Trusts in the Army and elsewhere, have never taken it, neither are urged thereunto. Instead of Reformation & defence of Religion, That Reformation which by the Covenant ought to be endeavoured, is resisted and hindered; Heresie and Schisme Tollerated, under which most horrid Blasphemies are sheltered and protected, if not openly professed and allowed. In stead of maintaining

the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament, the Houses have been highly disobeyed, and threatned; Those who by the Covenant ought to be brought to condigne tryall and punishment for hindering the Reformation of Religion, dividing the King from his People, or any of the Kingdoms from another, or making any Faction or Party amongst the people, contrary to the League and Covenant, have been protected and assisted, and those persecuted who by the Covenant ought to be defended. In stead of a firme union and peace betwixt the Kingdoms, a breach hath been endeavoured. And whereas both Kingdoms by the Solemn League and Covenant are obliged to preserve his Majesties Person and Authority, in the preservation and defence of the true Religion and Liberties of the Kingdoms, that the world may bear witnesse with our consciences of our Loyalty, and that we have no thoughts nor intentions to diminish his Majesties just power and greatness. And the Kingdom of *Scotland*, having also upon his Majesties going from *Newcastle*, declared against all injury, harm, prejudice or violence to be done to his Royall Person. Yet by a sudden surprizall his Majesty was violently seized on, and carried from his house at *Holdenby* against his own will, and the declared Resolution of both Kingdoms by a party of the Army under the Command of Sir *Thomas Fairfax*, and by that Army thereafter carried about from place to place at their pleasure, kept and invironed with strong guards within their Quarters untill he was forced for safety of his life to flie from *Hampton* Court, as he himself declared in his Message from thence: And by the power and prevalency of that Army

my and their adherents he is kept a close Prisoner in the Isle of *wight*, and Votes past, declaring it High Treason to make any further applications to him, or to receive any Messages or Letters from him; Yea, even to that extremity are they already gone against him, that it is declared they will repose no further trust in him. Likeas not only such as had Warrants for accesse to him, from the Parliament of this Kingdom are debarred thereof, notwithstanding of the ingagement of the Houses 27. *January*, 1647. to the contrary; but the Earl of *Lauderdale* a publick Minister of this Kingdom, contrary to the Law of Nations, was violently removed from *Woburn*, where his Majestie then was, and not suffered to have accesse to him; and though reparation therein was desired by the Committee of Estates, yet none was given: And when the saids Commissioners desired to know whether the Votes against all Applications to the King did extend to his Majesties Subjects of *Scotland*, to debar such as are Warranted by the Parliament of this Kingdom, or their Committes from free accesse to, or intercourse with his Majesty, or that he should be hindred from, and so made uncapable of any Act of Government in relation to the affairs of *Scotland*, no Answer at all was returned thereto, untill the Commissioners from both Houses now residing here, did in *March* last give to us a large Declaration from them, acclaiming the sole power of the disposing of the Person of the King in *England*. We do not conceive it fit at this time to insist upon any violation made of the large Treaty concerning the remainder of the money due upon the brotherly assistance, nor of the Treaty for the Army in

Ireland,

Ireland, for whose service their was due in *Anno* 1643. by a subscrivit Accompt 312000. l. *sterling* (though we can never part from the interest of that Army till they be justly satisfied for their long and faithfull services) For as money neither was the cause nor motive to any of our undertakings nor resolutions, whatever hath been falsly suggested by our Enemies, so we shall not value it so much as now to mention it amongst the causes and grounds of our proceedings at this time.

By the large Treaty betwixt the Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *England*, it is provided, That if any Armies be leavied in any of the Kingdoms, and the neighbour Kingdom thereby harmed or wronged, that then the Estates of the Country by which it is done shall be obliged to pursue, take, and punish the offenders with all rigour. The Kingdom of *Scotland* hath divers times desired the performance of this Article, and in particular the Parliament of *Scotland* upon the 16. of *January*, 1647. To which the Houses in their Letter of the 27. of *January* Ingaged themselves to the Parliament of *Scotland*, That the *English* Garisons being delivered up, and the *Scottish* Army marched out of *England*, They should take that desire into speedy consideration. Upon the 16. of *July*, 1647 the *Scottish* Commissioners desired performance hereof, But through the prevalencie and power of the Sectaries, no reparation, satisfaction nor answer was given.

And although by the eighth Article of the Treatie, 1643. It is agreed that no Cessations, Pacifications, nor agreement for peace whatsoever shall be made

made by either Kingdom, or the Armies of either Kingdom without mutuall advice and consent of both Kingdoms, which ingagement the Houses of Parliament also repeated in their Letter of the 17. of *January* 1647. to observe that Article after the removall of our Army out of *England*; yet contrary thereunto the Army of Sectaries and their adherents framed Propoſals deſtructive to the Ends of the Covenant, which were preſented to his Majeſty without the advise or conſent of the Kingdom of *Scotland*: And thereafter, by their power and prevalency, the Houſes of Parliament have laid aſide the Propoſitions agreed on by both Kingdoms, and have contrary to the Treaty, preſented Propoſitions and Bills to his Majeſty; againſt which the Commiſſioners of this Kingdom by order, and according to their inſtructions, did proteſt, as being deſtructive to Religion, the Crown and union of the Kingdoms.

Theſe dangers ſo eminently threatning Religion, and Government call upon us, as Chriſtians, as Subjects, as Scotchmen, to a duty to God, our King and Countrey, and to our oppreſſed and heavily afflicted Brethren in *England* who are faithfull and conſtant to the cauſe of God. We have therefore reſolved in the firſt place to endeavor and aſſay all brotherly and amiable means of repairing and making up ſuch differences or breaches, as may otherwiſe neceſſitat this Kingdom to ingage in a War. And therefore, we do intend to ſend to the Honourable Houſes of the Parliament of *England*, theſe following neceſſary, and juſt deſires for Religion, his Majeſty, and good and peace of theſe Kingdoms.

1. That an effectuall course be tane by the Houses for enjoyning the Covenant to be taken by all the subjects of the Crown of *England* conform to the first Article of the Treaty, and conform to the Declaration of both Kingdomes in *anno* 1643. By which all who would not take the Covenant were declared to be publike enemies to Religion & the country, and that they are to be censured and punished as professed adversaries and malignants: And that Reformation of, and Uniformity in Religion be setled according to the Covenant. That as the Houses of Parliament have agreed to the Directory of Worship, so they would take a reall course for the practicing thereof by all the subjects in *England* and *Ireland*, that the Confession of Faith transmitted from the Assembly of Divines at *Westminster* to the Houses be approven, and that Presbyteriall government with the subordination of the lower Assemblies to the higher be setled and fully established in *England* and *Ireland*; And that ane effectuall course be taken for suppressing and extirpating all Heresies and Schismes, particularly Socinianism, Arminianism, Arrianism, Anabaptism, Antinomianism, Erastianism, Familism, Brownism and Independencie, and for perfecting what is yet further to be done for extirpating Popery and Prelacy, and suppressing the practise of the Service Book, commonly called *the Book of English Common Prayer*.

2. That conform to the former desires of this Kingdom, the Kings Majesty may come with honour, freedom and safety to some of His houses in or near *London*, that the Parliaments of both Kingdoms may make their applications to Him for obtaining His Royall

assent

assent to such desires as shall be by them presented to Him, for establishing Religion, as is above expresst, and setling a well grounded peace.

3 And to the end, that all Members of both Houses who have been faithfull to this Cause, may freely and safely return and attend their charges, the City of *London* may enjoy its liberty and privilidges which it had before the late encroachment of the army, the Parliament may sit and voyce with freedom and safety, both Kingdoms without interruption or disturbance may make their applications to His Majesty, and the setling of Religion and Peace may be no longer hindred and obstructed, that the present Army of Sectaries under the Command of *Thomas* Lord *Fairfax* of *Cameron*, be disbanded, and none imployed but such as have or shal take the Covenant, and are well affected to Religion and Government, excepting from the said disbanding the garrisons necessary to be kept up by the Parliament of *England*, for the safety of that Kingdom, which are desired to be commanded by such as have or shall take the Covenant, and are well affected to Religion and government as aforesaid.

Wee will not doubt, but the Honourable Houses will seriously weigh and consider how necessary and just these our demands are, to which we will expect ane satisfactory answer; But if through the influence and power of the Army of Sectaries that now invirons them, these our desires be slighted and rejected; Yet, we resolve by Gods assistance in all our proceedings never to break on our part the union betwixt the Kingdoms, nor to encroach upon the nationall rights of the subjects of *England*, or entrench upon their just

liberties, much leſſe is it our intention at all to make ane Nationall ingagement againſt the Parliament and Kingdom of *England*. But for them whoſe Freedom, Priviledges and Happineſſe ſhall be ever as Dear to Us as our own. And if we ſhall be neceſſitat to any undertakings in a War. We do reſolve that as the ingagements of this Kingdom have been conſtantly hitherto, for ſetling Truth and Peace under his Majeſties Government, So they ſhall ſtill be for the obtaining the ſame ends. And we will be carefull that in the managing and carying on of ſo pious and ducibul a work, That we ſhall not enter into Aſſociation and Conjunction of Forces with thoſe, who ſhall refuſe to ſwear and ſubſcribe the Solemn League and Covenant, nor uſe ſuch meanes or inſtruments as may diſcourage or diſoblige the Presbyterians *in England*, who continue firm to the Solemn League and Covenant: And that we will be ſo far from Joyning or Aſſociating our ſelves with the Popiſh, Prelaticall or Malignant party, if they ſhall again riſe in Arms, either to oppoſe or obſtruct all or any ane of the ends of the Covenant; That on the contrary we will oppoſe and endeavour to ſuppreſſe them, as Enemies to the cauſe and Covenant on the one hand, as well as Sectaries on the other. And we further declare, That we will give truſt in our Armies, and Commitees to none but ſuch as are of known Integrity, Abilities and Faithfulneſſe to this Cauſe and Covenant, and againſt whom their is no juſt cauſe of Exception. And as we ſhall endeavour the Reſcuing of his Majeſty from thoſe who violently carried him away from *Holdenby*, and by whoſe power he is ſtill detained

cloſe

close prisoner; That he may come with Honour, Freedom and Safety to some of his Houses, in or neer to *London*, where both Kingdoms may make their Applications to Him, for setling Religion and a well grounded Peace: So we resolve not to put in his Majesties Hands or any others whatsoever, any such Power, whereby the foresaids ends of the Covenant, or any one of them may be obstructed or opposed, Religion or Presbyterian Government indangered. But on the contrary, before any agreement or condition to be made with his Majesty, having found his late Concessions and Offers concerning Religion not satisfactory. That he give assurance by his Solemn Oath under his Hand and Seal. That he shall for himself, and his Successours give his Royall Assent, and agree to such Act or Acts of Parliament, and Bills as shall be presented to him by his Parliaments of both or either Kingdoms *respective*, for enjoying the League and Covenant, and fully establishing Presbyteriall Government, Directory of Worship, and Confession of Faith in all his Majesties Dominions. And that his Majestie shall never make any opposition to any of those, nor endeavour any change thereof. And further to shew and evidence the candor and reality of our intentions, we are willing to to subjoyn to the grounds of our undertakings ane Oath, wherein both in the framing thereof, and otherwaies we are willing the Church shall have their due interest as formally in the like cases.

And albeit we are resolved not to engage in any War before the necessity and lawfulnesse thereof be cleared: So as all who are well affected may be satisfied

tisfied therewith. And that reparation to ſuch breaches and injuries as are or ſhall be condiſcendit on, ſhall be demanded in ſuch a juſt and fit way as ſhall be found moſt lawfull and expedient. Yet we cannot be anſwerable to the great truſt laid upon us, if ſeeing ſo imminent and great Dangers to all that is deareſt to us; We did not make uſe of our Authority and Power for the common ſafety of this Kingdom; And therefore we have reſolved to put this Kingdom preſently in a poſture of defence, as it was in *An.* 1643.

And now as many of the dangers, with the grounds and reſolutions in purſuance of our duties, are hereby made known to this Kiugdom; ſo we are aſſured, that all, and every one, who have any zeal to Religion, love to Monorchical Government, ſenſe of the ſufferings and impriſonment of their King, affection to their oppreſſed Brethren in *England*, or deſire to preſerve the Priviledges of Parliament, and liberty of the ſubject will chearfully in ſuch an exigent (while the eyes of all Chriſtendom are on us) rouze up themſelves, and contribute their beſt endeavours, as they ſhall be required by us, in purſuance of all the ends of the Covenant, alſwell for Religion as for his Majeſties Perſon, and Government, and Priviledges of Parliament; in doing whereof we ſhall witneſſe to the world, that we have not ſwerved from theſe our firſt Principles contained in our Nationall Covenant, and in our Solemn League and Covenant, whereby we did ſolemnly ſwear and promiſe before God and his Angels, To endeavor in our ſeverall places and callings, the Reformation of, and Uniformity in Religion and Church-Government in all his Majeſties Dominions, according

ing to the Word of God, and example of the best Reformed Churches; and not only to the utmost of our Power, with our means and lives to ſtand to the defence of our dread Soveraign, his Perſon and Authority, in the Preſervation of the true Religion, and liberties of the Kingdoms: But alſo in every cauſe which may concern his Majeſties honour to concur according to the Laws of this Kingdom, and duty of good Subjects: And alſo hereby give a ſingular proof of the good intentions of all that maintain Presbyteriall Government, that they are not enemies to Monarchie as they are falſely by their enemies branded. And in particular this Kingdom of *Scotland* will now make it evident as they often declared, That their quietneſs, ſtability, and happineſs doth depend upon the ſafety of the Kings Majeſties perſon, and maintenance of his greatneſſe and Royall Authority, who is Gods Vice-gerent ſet over us for maintenance of Religion, and miniſtration of Juſtice: Having ſo many bands and ties of Duty and ſubjection to his Majeſty, and his Government, who is our Native King from a longer Series and diſcent of his Royall Progenitors then can be paralleld in *Europe*. That we reſolve cloſely, and conſtantly to adhere thereunto, as alſo to all the Ends of the Covenant.

Alex. Gibſon, *Cler. Regiſt.*

FINIS.